

Message Text

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S E C R E T COPENHAGEN 1747

EXDIS

E.O.: 11652: GDS
TAGS: ET, SO, EEC, US, DA
SUBJ: US-EC DIALOGUE: HORN OF AFRICA - SOMALI WITHDRAWAL

REFS: (A) STATE 61431, (B) COPENHAGEN 1727

1. POLCOUNS DISCUSSED SUBSTANCE OF REFTEL A WITH MFA'S HEAD OF P-3 BENT HAAKONSEN THIS MORNING (MARCH 14). HAAKONSEN STATED THAT SINCE THE EC POLITICAL DIRECTORS DO NOT MEET UNTIL TOMORROW, IT IS TOO EARLY FOR THE DANES TO COMMENT MEANINGFULLY IN THEIR EC PRESIDENCY CAPACITY ON OUR THOUGHTS. THEY WOULD LIKE, HOWEVER, TO PRESENT OUR VIEWS TO THE NINE. HAAKONSEN NOTED THAT OTHERS OF THE NINE WHO HAVE BEEN IN DIRECT CONTACT WITH THE USG ON THIS ISSUE WILL ALSO PROBABLY HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY.

2. SPEAKING PERSONALLY, HAAKONSEN SAID THAT HIS FIRST IMPRESSION WAS THAT THE US POSITION AS SET OUT IN REF A HAD BEEN SOMEWHAT OVERTAKEN BY EVENTS. FURTHERMORE, IT SEEMED PERHAPS TOO HEAVILY WEIGHTED IN FAVOR OF THE SOMALIS. HE OBSERVED THAT ASSISTANCE TO THE ETHIOPIANS, WHERE ALMOST ALL THE FIGHTING HAS TAKEN PLACE, WILL BE NECESSARY AND SHOULD BE AN IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION IN DISCUSSIONS OF WESTERN INITIATIVES IN THE AREA. POLCOUNS POINTED OUT THAT ASSISTANCE TO WAR-RAVAGED AREAS OF THE OGADEN WAS ENVISAGED AND THAT THE

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FOCUS OF PRESENT US CONCERN WAS TO ASSURE THAT ALL PARTIES MOVE SWIFTLY TO A DURABLE SETTLEMENT.

3. HAAKONSEN SPECIFICALLY ASKED ABOUT US WISHES ON THE TIMING OF ANY STATEMENT THE NINE MIGHT DECIDE TO MAKE, NOTING THE CUMBERSOME CONSULTATION ROUTE WHICH COULD DELAY SUCH A STATEMENT UNTIL THE NEXT EC FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING IN

APRIL. HE SUGGESTED THAT EXPEDITIOUS COORDINATION BY THE NINE VIA THEIR CLASSIFIED TELEX SYSTEM (COREU) MIGHT BE POSSIBLE.

4. HAVING SAID THIS, HAAKONSEN EMPHASIZED THAT HE BELIEVED THAT THE NINE AND THE US SHARE A COMMON APPRECIATION OF THE DANGERS IN THE HORN AND A WISH TO TAKE EFFECTIVE MEASURES TO REDUCE THESE DANGERS. HE REMARKED PARENTHETICALLY THAT WHATEVER DIFFERENCES MIGHT HAVE EXISTED BETWEEN DENMARK AND ITS WESTERN FRIENDS ON CUBANS IN ANGOLA HAVE NO APPLICATIO TO THE SITUATION IN THE HORN.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: AN UPDATE AND CLARIFICATION OF WHAT ACTION THE US MAY WISH THE EC POLITICAL COMMITTEE TO TAKE ON THE HORN AT ITS MARCH 15-16 MEETING. WE BELIEVE WE CAN GET TO THE DANES ON THIS ISSUE DURING THE COURSE OF THE DAY ON THE 15TH.

DEAN

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